(i) Categories with Minimal Threat-99 items

(ii) Categories with Mild Threat-90 items

(iii) Categories with Medium Threat-39 items

(iv) Categories with Severe Threat-43 items

Cluster Development Scheme for Handloom Sector

120. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a new scheme called Cluster Development Scheme for the development of handloom sector, has been launched recently;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) the steps being taken/proposed to be taken to provide assistance to Tamil Nadu under the scheme;

(d) whether this cluster approach would replace the cooperative approach for the development of handloom sector;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) if not, the steps being taken for strengthening cooperative sector in handlooms?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINGH VAGHELA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Textiles has launched a new scheme titled as "Integrated Handloom Cluster Development Scheme" for the development of handloom sector, with an outlay of Rs. 40.00 crore for development of 20 handloom clusters throughout the country. Following a holistic approach, the scheme will cover the entire needs of the handloom sector in each cluster for supply of raw materials, marketing support, design inputs, upgradation of technology and welfare of the weavers. Quality human resource inputs for various functions will be provided to each cluster through an exclusive cluster based institution to which the Central Government will provide funds directly. Customised programmes will be developed for each cluster after a detailed survey and requirement analysis.

(c) Three locations in the State of Tamil Nadu *viz.* Tiruvannamalai, Trichy and Kurinjipadi have been identified for development under the scheme.

(d) to (f) Under the Cluster Development Scheme, weavers, within as well as outside the cooperative fold will be supported.

Assistance to Rajasthan under Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hasthashilpa Vikas Yojana

121. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assistance under Centrally-sponsored scheme, Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hasthashilpa Vikas Yojana, for promotion of handicrafts has been released to the State of Rajasthan, during last three years;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINGH VAGHELA): (a) and (b) Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hasthashilp Vikas Yojana (AHVY) is not a Centrally-Sponsored Scheme but a Central Sector Scheme. The scheme does not envisage direct assistance to the State Governments and is being implemented as a grant-in-aid scheme throughout the country through various implementing agencies like State Handicrafts Corporations/ Apex Societies/NGO etc.

The details of financial assistance released to those implementing agencies in the State of Rajasthan during the last three years under this scheme is as follow:

2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Rs. 28,52,109/-	Rs. 64,69,404/-	Rs. 88,01,206/-

(c) Does not arise.

Doubling of duty drawn back rates on garments

122. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government decision to double the duty drawback rates on garments and restore *ad-volarem* rate basis failed to enthuse importers;